

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of)	
)	
COMSAT CORPORATION)	
Maritime Telecommunications	)	1-SAT-ISP-96
Network, Inc., and)	
William L. Whitely Petitions)	
for Reconsideration)	
PanAmSat Corporation Application	)	99-SAT-ISP-96
for Review)	
Comsat Corporation Notification	)	31-SAT-ISP-97
of Corporate Reorganization)	
Comsat Corporation Notification	)	196-SAT-ISP-97
of Corporate Reorganization)	
)	
WILLIAM L. WHITELEY)	
Request for Declaratory Ruling	)	117-SAT-DR-96
)	
WILLIAM J. HALLENBECK)	
Request for Declaratory Ruling	)	118-SAT-DR-96
)	
COMMITTEE TO RESTRUCTURE)	
THE INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE)	
ORGANIZATIONS)	
Petition to Enjoin Comsat	)	64-SAT-DR-97
Payment of Dividends from)	
Retained Earnings, as amended)	
Emergency Petition to	)	65-SAT-DR-97
Enjoin Comsat from Using)	
Legal Process, as amended)	
)	
BELCOM MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS)	
AND CLAIMANTS COMMITTEE)	
Petition for Investigation)	
and Issuance of a	)	73-SAT-DR-97
Declaratory Ruling)	
)	
PANAMSAT CORPORATION)	
Petition to Reopen Changes	)	CC Docket No. 80-634
in the Corporate Structure and)	
Operations of the Communications)	
Satellite Corporation)	

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OPPOSITION OF COMSAT CORPORATION

COMSAT Corporation ("COMSAT") hereby files its Opposition to the "Response to Reply of COMSAT Corporation and Petition for Directed Ruling based on Admission against Interest by COMSAT Corporation" (hereafter "Petition") filed in this proceeding by William J. Hallenbeck, William L. Whitely, and the so-called Litigation Recovery Trust ("LRT"). The Petition is unsigned, but identifies Scott H. Robb as attorney for the petitioners. It is dated June 28, 2000, but the accompanying certificate of service (also unsigned) is dated June 29, 2000. COMSAT received a copy of the Petition on July 6, 2000.

Petitioners seek the "immediate intervention" of the Commission based on an alleged "admission against interest filed as a reply" by COMSAT in this proceeding. Petition at 1-2. In fact, that alleged admission was contained in an "Opposition to Request for Issuance of Corrected Memorandum Opinion and Order" ("Opposition") filed by COMSAT on April 10, 1998 - over two years ago. COMSAT has filed a Motion to Strike on the ground that the Petition is grossly untimely. However, if the Commission does consider the Petition, it should be dismissed as without merit.

COMSAT has made no "admission against interest" warranting Commission intervention - immediate or otherwise. According to

petitioners, that so-called admission was that "no capitalization plan submitted by it ever gave Comsat 'specific authority to purchase a majority interest in Belcom[.]'" Petition at 4.

However, as petitioners concede (Petition at 3-4), the Commission has already held that it "does not currently require Comsat to receive prior authorization for specific acquisitions of entities such as Belcom." COMSAT Corporation, 13 FCC Rcd 2714, 2726 (1998). Indeed, the Commission has expressly held that COMSAT did not violate Section 201(c)(8) of the Satellite Act by purchasing stock in BelCom. *Id.* Accordingly, the statements in COMSAT's 1998 Opposition do not constitute an admission against interest, and there is no basis for revisiting the Commission's decision as to the legality of COMSAT's acquisition of BelCom.

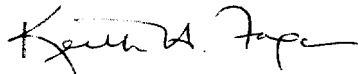
Likewise, there is no basis for revisiting the baseless accusations that petitioners and their attorney, Robb, have been making against COMSAT since 1995. The Commission should be aware, however, that on April 28, 1998, the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware found that Robb had engaged in a "dedicated campaign designed to harass and publicly embarrass BelCom and its affiliates [i.e., COMSAT], as well as individuals associated with those entities." BelCom, Inc. v. Robb, Civil Action No. 14663 (Apr. 28, 1998) (Letter Decision of William B. Chandler III, Chancellor). Specifically, the Delaware Court found that:

Robb orchestrated a massive effort to intimidate BelCom, CII, COMSAT and others into submitting to his fee demands as a means of avoiding the nuisance value caused by his relentless attacks on the company. Robb has created fictitious committees and drafted untold pleadings and letters, most of which were signed by Whitely and Hallenbeck, and forwarded to the Federal Communications Commission, the Securities and Exchange Commission, various federal officials, including the Attorney General and the Vice President of the United States, all in an effort to pressure BelCom or COMSAT to pay Robb the fees that he demands.

Robb was fined and sanctioned by the Delaware Court for his conduct in the BelCom litigation. Moreover, in 1992, Robb was held in civil contempt for engaging in similar tactics in another FCC proceeding. See Rhode Island Hospital Trust National Bank v. Howard Communications Corp., 980 F.2d 823 (1st Cir. 1992). Thus, the Commission should see this Petition for what it is: yet another attempt by Robb and his associates to extract a financial settlement from COMSAT by abusing the regulatory process.

Respectfully submitted,

COMSAT Corporation



Keith H. Fagan
Its Attorney

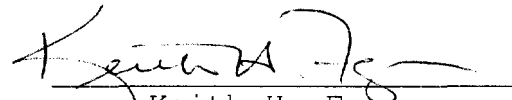
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July 13, 2000

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing **Opposition of COMSAT Corporation** was served by first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, this 13th day of July, 2000 to the following:

Litigation Recovery Trust
William J. Hallenbeck
William L. Whitely
Scott H. Robb
515 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022



Keith H. Fagan

July 13, 2000